

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084152

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 084152 ACTION NEW DELHI MOSCOW INFO

BOMBAY 12 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084152

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJECT:SECRETARY SPEECH IN BOMBAY APRIL 18

MOSCOW PASS SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY

1. WE CONCUR WITH THRUST OF EMBASSY DELHI'S COMMENTS
(DELHI 4877) REGARDING DRAFT TEXT OF SECRETARY
SIMON'S SPEECH SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN BOMBAY APRIL 18.
WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE THAT SPEECH CONCENTRATE ON
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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT SECRETARY NOT

DISCUSS INDIAN ECONOMIC POLICIES. EXPLICIT SUGGESTIONS THAT INDIANS SHOULD RELY MORE ON PRIVATE SECTOR AND IMPLICIT CRITICISM OF GOI ECONOMIC POLICY LIKELY TO STIR RESENTMENT IN INDIA AND FURTHER COMPLICATE ALREADY DIFFICULT TASK OF TRYING TO DEVELOP STABLE AND MORE MATURE INDO-US RELATIONS. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, WE HAVE URGED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHOW GREATER RESTRAINT IN COMMENTING ON EACH OTHER'S POLICIES. THUS, WE SEE NO GAIN AND CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE IF SENIOR US LEADER WERE TO DELIVER WHAT INDIANS WOULD REGARD AS LECTURE ON HOW THEY SHOULD SHAPE THEIR ECONOMIC POLICY.

2. WE ALSO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT SECRETARY SIMON SHOULD OMIT DEBT RELIEF ISSUE FROM SPEECH. THIS QUESTION IS NOT

PUBLIC ISSUE IN INDIA, BUT REMAINS MATTER UNDER DISCUSSION PRIVATELY AT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY RESPONSES SO FAR TO OUR PROPOSED SCENARIO THAT WE MAY BE ON WAY TO RESOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION IN MANNER SATISFACTORY TO US. REVIEWING SUBJECT IN PUBLIC FORUM WOULD SERVE NO EVIDENT USEFUL PURPOSE AND ON CONTRARY BY SPOTLIGHTING ATTENTION ON ISSUE COULD EASILY MAKE IT LESS LIKELY GOI WILL BE WILLING TO ACCEPT USG POSITION WITH RELATIVE GOOD GRACE.

3. WE AGREE THAT SOME MENTION OF INDO-AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS IS APPROPRIATE AND THINK THAT PROSPECT FOR INCREASED TRADE IS LOGICAL AREA TO DEVELOP. SECRETARY MIGHT ALSO COMMENT ABOUT INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION AND USEFUL ROLE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION CAN PLAY IN EFFORT TO EXPAND TWO-WAY TRADE.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW NEW DRAFT OF SPEECH MODIFIED IN LIGHT OF EMBASSY DELHI'S AND OUR COMMENTS. SINCE SPEECH NOT SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY UNTIL APRIL 18, THERE SHOULD BE TIME FOR FURTHER EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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